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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 7 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning Israel's attacks on southern Lebanon and the Western Bekaa and the arbitrary practices against the civilian inhabitants in which it engages on a daily basis, I have the honour to notify you of the series of such incidents that took place in September 1997.

1 September 1997

At 0600 hours the Jabbur pool and Jabal Abi Rashid came under Israeli artillery fire that continued until 0610 hours.

At 1330 hours outlying areas of Kafra, Yatar and Haris came under Israeli artillery fire, receiving some 20 shells of various calibres.

At 1800 hours the shelling of outlying areas of Kafra, Yatar, Haris, Haddatha and Bra'shit resumed.

At 2055 hours Israeli warplanes and helicopters overflew the Nabatiyah area at high altitudes and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

2 September 1997

At 1300 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah area at high altitudes.

At 2000 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

On the night of 2 to 3 September Israeli forces raided a number of houses in Khiyam, Dibbin and Balat in Marj Uyun district, detained a number of persons and prevented villagers from leaving the area of the border strip.

3 September 1997

At 0730 hours outlying areas of Jba' and Ayn Bu Siwar came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1615 hours outlying areas of Zibqin, Ramadiyah and Shu'aytiyah came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 2300 hours outlying areas of Tibnin in Bint Jubayl district came under Israeli artillery fire.

4 September 1997

At 1345 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at medium altitudes.

5 September 1997

At 0100 hours the environs of the Adlun post and the townships of Insariyah, Lubya and Adlun came under Israeli artillery fire. This was accompanied by overflights by Israeli warplanes, which were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire. Israeli naval vessels and helicopters attempted to carry out a landing on the seashore at Sarafand and Munis in Sidon district and directed a number of bursts of fire at houses and vehicles. Serious damage was done and one person was injured.

At 0200 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area at low altitudes and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire.

At 0330 hours Israeli warplanes and helicopters overflew the Nabatiyah area at medium altitudes and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

7 September 1997

At 0630 hours outlying areas of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, the environs of the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks there and Wadi Habbush came under Israeli artillery fire. This continued until 0830 hours.

At 0705 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Nabatiyah at low altitudes.

At 1300 hours Lebanese Army forces found an explosive charge left behind in the recent Israeli landing between Lubya and Insariyah. They dismantled the device.

8 September 1997

At 1530 hours outlying areas of Tibnin, Haddatha, Ayta al-Jabal, Haris and Bra'shit came under artillery fire from Israeli and Lahad militia positions in the border strip. Israeli helicopters also overflew the Bint Jubayl area.

At 2000 hours outlying areas of Kafr Rumman and the environs of the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under Israeli artillery fire.

9 September 1997

At 1030 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitudes carrying out a number of mock attacks. They were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire.

At 1100 hours a fire started in an outlying area to the south of Jarju'. At 1300 hours it was extinguished by civil defence personnel. It transpired that the fire had been caused by heat balloons dropped by Israeli warplanes.

At 2245 hours Israeli helicopters overflew Sidon at medium altitudes and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

10 September 1997

At 0530 hours Israeli helicopters overflew Sidon at medium altitudes and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1115 hours the Libbaya hills in Western Bekaa district came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1500 hours outlying areas of Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal, Haddatha, Haris, Tulin, Qabrikha, Sawwanah and Majdal Silm came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 2230 hours outlying areas of Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal, Haddatha, Haris, Kafra, Yatar, Bra'shit and Shaqra came under Israeli artillery fire. Israeli helicopters also engaged in strafing, and this caused a fire in an outlying area of Tibnin that destroyed some 30 dunums.

11 September 1997

At 0945 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Marj Barja in Shuf district at low altitudes and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 2230 hours Israeli helicopters overflew the Nabatiyah area, and at 2250 hours they carried out a three-stage attack on a Lebanese Army site in the Arabsalim - Jarju' - Humin al-Fawqa triangle and on a Lebanese Army post located in a school in the southern part of Arabsalim. Six Lebanese Army personnel were killed and five were wounded. Two vehicles were also destroyed and one civilian

woman was killed. In the meantime, outlying areas of Arabsalim, Humin al-Fawqa and Ayn Bu Siwar and areas along the Zahrani River came under Israeli artillery fire.

13 September 1997

At 1710 hours an area of Jabal Mashgharah near the dwellings and the environs of the Syrian forces compound to the south of the town received intermittent bursts of heavy-weapons fire from Israeli and Lahad militia positions in Tumat Niha.

14 September 1997

At 0100 hours outlying areas of Qabrikha, Majdal Silm, Tulin, Bra'shit, Tibnin, and Ayta al-Jabal came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0215 hours outlying areas of Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, Jba' and Ayn Qana and areas along the Zahrani River came under artillery fire from Israeli positions in the border strip.

At 1350 hours the Jabal Mashgharah heights and the environs of the Sharaf hospital refrigeration plant came under artillery fire from Israeli forces and Lahad forces at the Tumat Niha position. The shelling stopped at 1500 hours while intermittent machine-gun rounds continued to be fired. The shelling caused a huge fire on the uppermost summit of Jabal Mashgharah facing the Israeli forces in Tumat Niha.

At 1930 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitudes. Israeli warplanes also overflew Barja and Marj Barja in Shuf district and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army. At the same time, they also overflew the Tyre area at medium altitude.

At 2030 hours outlying areas of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah in Nabatiyah district came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

15 September 1997

At 1200 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah and Nabatiyah areas at medium altitude. This was accompanied by an Israeli artillery bombardment of outlying areas of Jarju' and Ayn Bu Siwar.

At 1345 hours outlying areas of Jba', Ayn Bu Siwar, Jarju', Arabsalim and Humin al-Fawqa, the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills and Kafr Rumman came under Israeli artillery fire. It stopped at 1530 hours.

16 September 1997

At 1125 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps.

At 1450 hours warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at medium altitudes.

17 September 1997

At 0800 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim and Jarju' and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1300 hours outlying areas of Haris, Kafra and Ayta al-Jabal came under artillery fire from Israeli forces and Lahad militia positions in the occupied border strip.

At 1545 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at medium altitude.

18 September 1997

At 0630 hours the security situation in the Jabal al-Rayhan area became tense and clashes took place between men of the Lebanese national resistance and Israeli forces and Lahad militia elements in which all types of weapons were used. Some rocket projectiles fell in Rayhan in Jazzin district and one citizen was injured.

At 0700 hours the security situation in the Tumat Niha area in Jazzin district became tense and there were clashes between men of the Lebanese national resistance and Lahad militia elements in which all types of weapons were used. The clashes stopped at 0800 hours.

At 0700 hours outlying areas of Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal, Haddatha, Haris and Bra'shit came under Israeli artillery fire. The environs of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the abandoned Army barracks there also came under artillery fire and received bursts of fire from the Israeli positions in the border strip.

At 0720 hours the southern environs of Mashgharah near the vocational school buildings came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0750 hours the Israeli bombardment of outlying areas of Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal, Haddatha, Haris and Bra'shit was extended to include Tulin, Qabrikha, Kafra, Sawwanah, Khirbat Silm and Majdal Silm. The bombardment of outlying areas of the same towns resumed at 1130 hours.

At 0800 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim, Jarju' and Ayn Bu Siwar came under Israeli artillery fire. It stopped at 1200 hours after two homes in Arabsalim had been damaged.

At 0830 hours the Israeli bombardment of the environs of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa stopped after it had been extended to outlying areas of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Habbush, Kafr Rumman, Kafr Tibnit and Nabatiyah al-Tahta. Five citizens were wounded and a number of houses and vehicles were damaged.

At 0900 hours Israeli warplanes attacked Jabal Mashgharah in Western Bekaa district and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1000 hours outlying areas of Mansuri and Jabal Zun in Tyre district came under Israeli artillery fire.

19 September 1997

At 2145 hours the Israeli artillery bombardment of outlying areas of Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal and Haddatha was resumed.

21 September 1997

At 0700 hours outlying areas of Kafr Rumman and Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 2000 hours the environs of the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under Israeli artillery fire.

23 September 1997

At 1200 hours outlying areas of Habbush, Arabsalim and Jarju', the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills and areas along the Litani River came under Israeli artillery fire. It stopped at 1800 hours.

At 1500 hours the Jabal al-Rayhan and Aramta areas came under artillery and rocket fire from the west.

At 1515 hours Ayta al-Jabal, Haddatha, Haris and Bra'shit came under Israeli artillery fire. This was accompanied by intensive overflights of the area by Israeli warplanes.

At 2000 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area at medium altitude.

At 2040 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Mashgharah area and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 2130 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at medium altitude.

24 September 1997

At 0800 hours outlying areas of Libbaya in Western Bekaa district came under Israeli artillery fire. Israeli forces on board a naval vessel also fired at a fishing boat off Mansuri in Tyre district and caused it major damage.

At 1515 hours Israeli aircraft overflew the Nabatiyah area at low altitude and carried out mock attacks and in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area in particular. They were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

25 September 1997

At 0915 hours outlying areas of Tibnin, Bra'shit, Ayta al-Jabal and Haddatha came under Israeli bombardment.

At 1115 hours the Israeli artillery bombardment of outlying areas of Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal, Bra'shit and Haddatha resumed, causing a fire in a garden attached to a house.

26 September 1997

At 1130 hours Israeli aircraft overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitudes.

27 September 1997

At 2121 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at medium altitudes and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

29 September 1997

At 1100 hours outlying areas of Majdal Silm, Khirbat Silm, Sawwanah, Qabrikha and Tulin came under Israeli artillery fire.

30 September 1997

At 0530 hours outlying areas of Shaqra, Majdal Silm and Qabrikha came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0745 hours outlying areas of Jarju', Arabsalim, Ayn Bu Siwar and Luwayzah came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1330 hours outlying areas of Bra'shit and Tibnin came under Israeli artillery fire.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns the continued Israeli occupation and these fresh attacks and arbitrary practices inflicted on the Lebanese population, which have left a number of casualties and have caused further serious damage to property.

Like previous attacks, this new series is in flagrant violation of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and constitutes a breach of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, of international law and of basic human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative